



## Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department

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### Zika Situational Report – Friday, April 22, 2016

As of April 20, a total of 388 laboratory-confirmed travel-associated Zika virus disease cases have been reported to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) from 40 U.S. states and the District of Columbia. Of the 388 cases reported, 33 were pregnant women, 8 were sexually transmitted, and 1 had Guillain-Barré syndrome. Texas has 31 Zika virus disease cases.

There are 43 countries and territories with active Zika virus transmission.

As of today, staff have identified 111 persons (60 percent are pregnant women) for whom clinical specimens have been submitted to the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) for Zika virus testing. Results have been reported for 66 persons; two persons have been tested positive for Zika, one for Dengue, and two for Chikungunya. Testing results are pending for 23 persons (22 additional individual specimens were not able to be tested). There are no reported severe illnesses, hospitalizations, or deaths.

For questions or more information about ways to reduce mosquitoes around property residents can continue to call Rodent and Vector program at 3-1-1.

Staff continue working with Austin area physicians to educate them on the process of submitting specimens to the state laboratory for Zika virus testing. Guidance related to Zika disease and pregnancy, laboratory testing, and prevention of sexual transmission of Zika virus have been prepared by the CDC. Staff are sharing this guidance to physician offices when requested.

Staff are also conducting interviews of persons whose physician has submitted serum specimen to the state laboratory to collect demographic and exposure data required by DSHS. Staff are also providing guidance on ways to protect oneself from mosquito bites to individuals who have scheduled trips to areas where Zika virus is circulating.

The ATCHHSD's Zika website for healthcare providers and the public has been updated with links to new information and resources: <http://www.austintexas.gov/zika>.

Other news:

- Local mosquito transmission of Zika virus infection has been reported in Belize. Local mosquito transmission means that mosquitoes in the area are infected with Zika virus and are spreading it to people. Because Zika virus is primarily spread by

mosquitoes, CDC recommends that travelers to Belize protect themselves from mosquito bites.

- CDC scientists have stated that although mosquito bites are the main way that Zika virus is spread, Zika virus can also spread when an infected man has sex with his female or male partners. If one is concerned for any reason about getting Zika through sex, a condom should be used every time, correctly. Not having sex is the only way to be sure that one does not get sexually transmitted Zika.
- Until more is known, CDC continues to recommend that pregnant women and women trying to become pregnant take the following precautions:
  - Should not travel to any area below 6,500 feet where Zika virus is spreading.
  - If you must travel to or live in one of these areas, talk to your healthcare provider first and strictly follow steps to prevent mosquito bites.
  - If you have a male partner who lives in or has traveled to an area with Zika, either use condoms, the right way, every time you have sex or do not have sex during your pregnancy.

The most common symptoms of Zika virus disease are fever, rash, joint pain, and conjunctivitis (red eyes). The illness is typically mild and resolves within one week.

We continue to encourage people to follow travel precautions and avoid mosquito bites. Preventative measures residents can take to avoid mosquito bites include draining any water around their property, wearing long-sleeved shirts and long pants and using EPA-registered insect repellents.

At this time, no additional resources are needed to address and respond to the Zika virus.

ATCHHSD staff are available 24/7 to support healthcare providers in responding to any patient with a suspect Zika virus infections. ATCHHSD has created a website for healthcare providers and the public that provide information:

<http://www.austintexas.gov/zika>.